John Reeves to W. Faukener
5th Feby 1800.

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5th Feb. 1800.

Dear Faukener

What I said to you, about the fable of Mr. Miles, & Owen, I now put upon paper, & you are at liberty to make what use of it, you please. I never before heard of such a story, as that, of Owen making an affidavit of Miles consulting me about the publication of that infamous pamphlet agt. the Prince, and my advising the publication, on the part of Govern^mt, as a thing that would do good; I never heard such a story, nor is there a word of truth in it.

However, I am a little mortified, that such an imagination should be believed by any body; tho' it is not unlike some of the slanders, of which I have been made the object, since it has been thought worth while to say any thing about me; and, considering the number, and the length of the practice, I bear them better, than I used. As to slandering the Prince, it is most contrary to my natural disposition, and to the way of thinking, I

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am afrd to, in public matters. if any opinion of my partialities was to be formed from my supposed Writings, The King, & the Prince, as his Successor, are the persons in the kingdom, that I might be supposed to look up to, with more reverence, than most men; so that my politics, & disposition are equally against such a vile design.

I think you know enough of me, not readily to believe, I would condescend to be a tool to the Ministers. I think, I should not be much disposed to become such, for a good purpose; I am sure, I should not for a bad one. Indeed, I am out of the reach of such overtures; for you know, I live at a distance from them; am in no confidence with them; and, I often think, they would be well content, if I were at the bottom of the Sea.

I hope, therefore, your friend will no longer believe me a Person, fit for any such employment, as the one supposed.

After I am acquitted of this charge, there still

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remaining one, which I think a stain upon me; namely, that I am in any confidence with the said Mr. Miles; You know, what sort of knowledge I have of that gentleman — being at Frankfort in Augt. 89 I was accosted by this gentleman, who was then resident there with his family; he was very forward, to oblige me, and I saw him frequently; but I thought him so troublesome, that his civilities were lost upon me. I had never before seen, or heard of such a person, as Mr. Miles; when I returned to England, I was made acquainted with his character; and was prepared to avoid him, if ever he should happen to fall in my way. This happened, and we soon ceased to be speaking acquaintance. — In this state of things between us, it was, that in Nov 1792. he accosted me in the street; and, abt. a week afterwards, he again spoke to me, saying, he had been ~~buyg~~ buying my pamphlet, & had it in his pocket — "If you have, then read it" said I. we parted; & now you have all the intercourse between me, & Mr. M. from the year 1790. when he returned to England, & I saw him once, or twice,

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before, we ceased to be speaking acquaintance. It, no doubt, was owing to this behaviour, on my part, that he acted, as he did, with respect to my pamphlet; for you know, it was he, who procured the printer's men to come to the Committee, and declare, I corrected the Press; it was he also, who put it into Hurst's head to take it up as he did, and begin the stir in the H. of Commons.

I never saw Miles's pamphlet, till this occasion, when I was told, there was more libel in his publication, than could possibly be made out of mine. I thought it a poor performance, — all words, vaunt, empty, as himself. I understand, it never had advisers, but was generally thought highly censurable.

As to the Ministers, I never can believe, they had any knowledge of Miles's intention; and I know, he has made himself so troublesome to them, that he is detested at White-hall, & the last man to be trusted —

Owen happens now to be out of the Kingdom so they have chosen a good time, for beginning, or revising this slander upon me.

Alas! how little these people know of the tenor of my life; what is my employment, and what are my habits, and propensities! But so it is — I shall

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pen to have been once started, and am fair game, to have laid upon my head, as I escape, the scoff, & the curses of all, who mean to disbarthen themselves. — well! — Mihi plaudo Ipse domi, similae — not nummos, or any thing like it, but libros contemplor. — When I get into my Arm Chair in Cecil Street — I forget these things, — and indeed am pretty well forgotten, except by those, who give themselves the trouble to remember for no Good, like your friend.

Excuse the length of this, and believe me, dear Faulkener,

Yours ever truely &c &c

John Reeves

To
W. Faulkener Esqr
&c &c &c.

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